

# COUNTY NEWS



PUBLISHED FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

August 2008

## Puppy With a Lot Of "Spirit" Inspires a National Outpouring of Generosity

It was a horrifying moment, caught on surveillance video at the border, of a man brutally beating a small puppy. But that moment has triggered an outpouring of sympathy, outrage and donations to County Animal Services.

Rescued by a Border Patrol agent after the beating on July 2, the puppy was turned over to the Department of Animal Services. Animal Services employees, so taken with the puppy's sweet disposition and determination to survive, named her Spirit.

Letters poured in from places as far as the Bronx, New York; one letter was filled with a cash donation of \$60 and a stuffed animal. Even Rachael Ray, a nationally-known talk show host, contributed \$5,000 toward Spirit's care. Eventually, Spirit may travel to New York to appear on Ray's show.

"Their concern for the welfare of Spirit shows that, despite the horrific acts of one person, there are still many more people who truly care," said Dawn Danielson, Director of the Department of Animal Services.

"This is by far the most horrific video I have ever seen of an animal being abused. We often see the aftermath of man's inhumanity to animals but it is seldom caught on camera. Watching the beating gives this an entirely new perspective."

Healing from the trauma has not been easy for Spirit. While Animal Services expects her to fully recover, her rehabilitation will be a lengthy and difficult process. Spirit sustained a fracture to her right rear leg and fractures to her ribs and spine from the beating.

An examination at the Veterinary Specialty Hospital on July 10 also revealed older fractures which indicated that this was not the first beating the puppy endured. The old injuries were near the same area of the lower portion of her right rear leg. Veterinary Specialty Hospital in Sorrento Valley performed the surgery.

"After the leg surgery, she took a real turn for the worst, which had nothing to do with



*Named Spirit for her sweet disposition and determination, this pup is now in foster care and recovering from her injuries.*

the surgery, but she developed pneumonia and became very anemic. We weren't sure if she was going to pull through. She was on IV antibiotics and fluid and underwent a blood transfusion," Danielson said.

Now, Spirit is recovering and is back to her playful self. She's even been taken in by a foster family provided by Four Paws Coonhound Rescue and Friends Inc., a non-profit/public charity, an organization where Animal Services regularly refers medical animal patients.

"We are just delighted and thrilled at the opportunity to help with Spirit's care. We plan to get her on a good diet, do some physical therapy for her leg and work with her behaviorally because she is really traumatized by men after the incident," said Rebecca Stevens, Founder of Four Paws Coonhound Rescue and Friends Inc.

"We have a foster care family taking great care of her and there is a man in the household to get her comfortable being around men again."

Danielson said there was still a good chance authorities would catch the man who beat Spirit.

There is a \$6,500 reward for any information that could lead to an arrest. Because the crime was committed on the U.S. side of the border, the man would be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law in this country and may be subjected to Mexico's laws as well.

## County Employee Is Sandcastle Champ

They'd considered the idea last year. But this time around, an elaborate sand sculpture devoted to skyrocketing fuel prices seemed just right.

They named it "Gas Relief" and won first place at the 28th U.S. Open Sandcastle Competition last month in Imperial Beach. It was the second time in four years that the team IB Posse, led by the County's own Leonard Gonzales, Jr., took the top prize in this competition, which draws thousands of spectators to Imperial Beach each year.

"I love it because it's a local event. It's draws folks to my city – I'm from Imperial Beach – and, in a way, I'm able to give back by doing my art there," said Gonzalez, who paints, draws and sculpts.

Gonzalez, an analyst with the Department of Environmental Health, has been building sandcastles since he was a boy. His father, Leonard Sr., competed in the contest with his own team.



*Team IB Posse poses after its win. Captain – and County employee – Leonard Gonzales Jr. is on the right, kneeling and holding his son.*

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## News Briefs News Briefs

### New Assistant Probation Chief Appointed

John Hensley, who began his career with the County 25 years ago as an intern, was appointed as the new Assistant Chief Probation Officer last month.

Hensley started out in 1983 as a Sheriff's Department intern, and soon moved to the Probation Department. There he's worked in all three divisions of the department, first as a line officer and then in management.

Most recently Hensley served as a deputy chief probation officer and oversaw the development and implementation of the Youthful Offender Reentry Program, Prison Reentry Program and DUI Enforcement Unit, all award-winning programs for innovation and effective use of taxpayer dollars.

Previous career highlights include serving as the project director for the construction of the \$53 million East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility, working as the assistant superintendent for Juvenile Hall and supervising the Crime Prevention Act of 2000 and Breaking Cycles Demonstration Project, recognized by the federal government as a national model for reducing juvenile crime.

### Sailor Serving in Afghanistan Honored by Board

July 22 was Craig Cook Day in San Diego County. So said a proclamation made by the Board of Supervisors last month, when Cook presented Board members with the County flag that had flown over his base in Afghanistan.

Cook, a Building Maintenance Supervisor with the County's Department of General Services, is a Machinist Mate Senior Chief in the Navy, and for several months he has been serving as a mentor to an Afghan Army Command Sergeant Major.

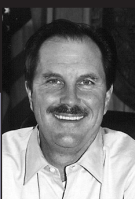
Earlier this spring, Cook flew the County flag



over Forward Operating Base Lightning, and for that day the mortars stopped, he told Board members.

Late last month Cook returned to Afghanistan, where he will serve until November.

(News Briefs continued on Page 3)



## In Walt's Words

### Following the Futurist

We all know our world is changing. But I didn't really get – I mean, *really* get – the scope and speed of that change. Not until the Futurist came to San Diego.

No, he's not a superhero. Or a fortune teller. Still, he was pretty amazing.

The Futurist is Ed Barlow, a consultant who helps businesses and governments anticipate and prepare for the future. He came to the County in March to talk to our expanded Leadership Team, which is department heads and their assistants. He spoke to our group for about two hours, and then spent the rest of the day working in smaller groups.

I think there were a range of reactions. Some walked away feeling overwhelmed, some were excited. Everyone, though, was thinking.

And Barlow gave us plenty to think about. Here are just a few nuggets that stuck in my mind:

- Seventy percent of today's manufactured goods will be obsolete in six years.
- In the year 2025, we will face the equivalent of all the 20th century's milestones – world wars, advent of the automobile, sequencing of DNA, rise of the Internet – in a single week.
- Eighty percent of the jobs that today's kindergartners will occupy don't yet exist.

So what do we, as a government organization, take away from Barlow's message? Well, we know we need to change.

The County needs to recognize and embrace the accelerated pace and magnitude of exponential change, and we need to understand how that change affects our business. We must build an organization and culture that is flexible and adaptable to change. Our future depends on this.

But just how do we do it?

My Assistant CAO, Helen Robbins-Meyer, is taking the lead on this. She has formed five Futurist Teams, each comprised of people with diverse backgrounds. These committees will take stock of our organization and make recommendations, based on what they hear from department heads, on what we can do to prepare for the future.

We're not reinventing the wheel here. And by wheel I mean GMS. We're simply making our wheel more efficient.

The committees will tackle these topics: Continuum of Change/Demographics; Environment; Economic/Global; Technology; and HR and Organization.

During each quarter, department heads will be engaging their staffs in a conversation related to the above topics, guided by some material the committees prepare and post on the Intranet on the GMS page. So don't be surprised to find your manager asking for your thoughts. Your ideas are critical to this process.

In the first quarter of this fiscal year, we'll be asking you: What changes are happening in your business? In the second: Is your department green? The third: What is a knowledge worker? And in the fourth quarter: What technology breakthroughs are going to change the way you work?

Questions about this? Visit the GMS page. There you'll find a list of Frequently Asked Questions to get you started.

After meeting with their staffs, department heads will then report back to the committees, and that information will help the committees form their recommendations. With this process, which we plan to finish by the end of the fiscal year next summer, we are laying the foundation for change.

So, start thinking, and talking! We need your help in moving this organization of ours into the future.

*Walt*

Walt Ekard  
Chief Administrative Officer



## Sandcastle Competition

(continued from page 1)

When Leonard Jr. was 18, he decided to strike out on his own. Now he is 33, a father to a baby daughter and toddler son, and captain of IB Posse. Gonzales has worked for the County for five years, first with General Services, then with Housing and Community Development before joining DEH.

This year, he and his nine team members worked for five hours in the 30-by-30 foot "pit"



while four other team members ran buckets of ocean water to them.

"It's exciting when you're out there," Gonzales said.

"There's some real adrenaline going, and people are rooting for you. They're holding their breath with you."

Their win earned them a cash prize of \$5,000 and the honor at next year's competition of having the best location – the plot just south of the pier.

This year, they were in the second plot from the pier, and their work drew quite a crowd.

The gas theme seemed a natural pick, Gonzales said.

"Last year, the artist who presented it didn't present it with drawings. This

year, he came up with some drawings and designs. And it's a topic everyone's talking about. There's not one person not feeling this crunch."

The team decided on the design about six weeks before the competition, and gathered twice a week to practice.

The finished piece had two vehicles and two gas hoses that snaked around the scene, overtaking two gas station patrons. One vehicle was an electric car; the other was an old-fashioned truck with a bunch of money in the back. The patron who leaned against the truck had a gas hose wrapped around his neck; the other patron was on the ground, the nozzle of the gas hose stuffed into his pocket.

Once the judges made their decisions, the teams had only a short time to appreciate their work before it was time for the next part of the tradition: unleashing the kids to destroy all the sculptures. For some, it's hard to watch. But Gonzales is pragmatic.

"If the kids don't do it, the tide's going to take it in another hour," he said.

## DGS Electricians Participate in 21st Annual Stand Down

Stand Down, a grassroots, community-based intervention program designed to help San Diego homeless and indigent veterans "combat" life on the street was held July 11 – 13. The Veterans Village of San Diego built a tent city on the baseball field at San Diego High School.

This year, eight DGS electricians – Mike Brass, Wilfredo Batac, Ramil Cruz, Kenneth Leathers, Elric Dawson, Scott Haynes, Scott From and Edgar Alto – broke away from their regular duties to support this community effort.

The entire temporary electrical power and distribution took about three days to set up in the "Alpha" through "Zulu" tents and the command and security tents. But they had less than a day to take it all down.

For the first time, electrician staff provided temporary lighting that was environmentally friendly. In addition to wiring numerous 120V convenience outlets that were used for computers, battery chargers for wheel chairs, and other essentials, the tent city was wired with fluorescent fixtures rather than incandescent light. And that provided a substantial savings in energy cost to event coordinators.



From left: Electrician Ramil Cruz, Senior Electrician Mike Brass and Electricians Wilfred Batac, Edgar Alto, and Scott From.

## News Briefs News Briefs

### Animal Services Participates in Louisiana Pet Evacuation Exercise

In recognition of the Department of Animal Services' proven expertise during local emergencies, the DAS was the only non-federal agency from outside of Louisiana to be invited to participate in the Louisiana State Animal Resource Team (LSART) Pet Evacuation Exercise in Baton Rouge on June 27 and 28.

Animal Control Lt. Dan DeSousa and Animal Control Officer Kalani Hudson loaded dogs and cats into a refrigerated semi-trailer to test LSART's ability to evacuate animals and monitor the air quality inside the trailer.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U. S. Department of Agriculture also took part in the event. While the exercise was created for responding to an impending hurricane, Animal Services staff learned skills and lessons that can be applied in the types of local emergencies typically experienced in the San Diego region.

### Marriages Surge for the Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk

The Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk's (ARCC) offices prepared for a busy day on June 17, the first day licenses for same-sex marriages could be issued, as directed by the California Supreme Court.

Not knowing how many couples would be coming in to obtain marriage licenses, staff was relocated to the busiest locations and an appointment system was initiated. Hours were extended at the CAC during the first week, from 7 am to 6 pm. Saturday hours at the Kearny Mesa office were extended from 8 am to 7 pm.

On the first day, 241 marriage licenses were issued and 152 ceremonies were performed. The first week was highly successful, with 1067 licenses being issued and 573 ceremonies performed.

Many letters have been received from couples praising ARCC staff for their courtesy and professionalism and thanking the office for giving everyone the dignity and respect that was deserved.

## Honoring Those Who Serve

This year, Maria Castillo wanted to do something different for Independence Day. So she brought her idea to the House Committee, a group of 14 County employees that plans events and fundraisers for the 450 people who work at the Health & Human Services Agency's office in Chula Vista.

She wanted to make a "Wall of Heroes," that would honor the loved ones of County employees who served in the military. The committee loved the idea.



HHSA employees at the south branch have constructed a wall of heroes – employees' family members who have served or currently are serving in the Armed Forces.

"We wanted to focus more on what the Fourth of July really means. It's not just for parties and barbecues," said Castillo, a Health &

Human Services Specialist.

The committee sent out an email to all the building's employees, asking them to search for photos and mementos.

Then the committee pasted what was submitted to a wall on the second floor.

"We have sons, we have husbands, we have fathers," Castillo said.

And the photos date as far back as the turn of the 20th century. There are photos of men who served in World War II and Vietnam up to the present.

In the center of the wall is a sober reminder of what some military families endure. It is Staff Sgt. Alfredo Barajas Silva, son of Teresa Barajas, a Supervising Health & Human Services Specialist. Silva, 35 and a member of the California National Guard, was killed when an IED struck his vehicle in Baghdad in September 2005.

"A lot of people will come and stand here. They're just in awe. It's a little breathtaking," said Claudia Sandoval, an Administrative Secretary and member of the House Committee.

Sandoval and Castillo hope to make the wall an annual tradition.

"I think it would be great to continue it and expand it," Sandoval said.

## With \$200 Saved Each Month, They're Trolley Devotees



Skyrocketing gas prices have sent County employees in search of cheaper ways to get to work. Animal Services Representatives Jean Lett, left, and Sharon Stevens step off the trolley at the Morena/Linda Vista station.

Jean Lett's Buick Sable was pushing 100,000 miles. And the gas she was putting into it? She was spending more than \$200 a month to get from her East County home to the Department of Animal Services on Gaines St. in Linda Vista every day.

Lett's coworker, Sharon Stevens, was spending about the same. The two women, both Animal Services Representatives, live near each other and now are commuting buddies on the San Diego Trolley.

They are just two of many County employees seeking alternative ways to get to work – because of rising fuel costs or wanting to be more green.

Stevens and Lett take turns picking each other up and driving to the Arnele Avenue station in El Cajon. On the train ride, which takes 37

minutes, they nap, people watch and catch snippets of people's conversations.

It's an interesting mix of people, they said. Even more so in the evenings.

"It's a lot of working people, a lot of homeless people, a lot of kids," Stevens said.

The trolley pass costs \$64 each month, and that expense is reimbursed by the County. To accommodate the trolley's schedule, Stevens' and Lett's supervisor allows the two to start work 10 minutes earlier and leave 10 minutes earlier.

There's another thing that Lett likes about the trolley. It's the walk between work and the station.

"It's good exercise!"

### Board of Supervisors

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Chief Administrative Officer  
Walter F. Ekard

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## With gas prices at record highs, here are some tips for getting the most from your tank:

**Follow your owner's manual recommendation for the right octane level for your car.** For most cars, the recommended gas is regular octane. Using a higher octane gas than the manufacturer recommends offers no benefit — and costs you at the pump. Unless your engine is knocking, buying higher octane gas is a waste of money.

**Stay within the posted speed limits.** Gas mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 miles per hour.

**Avoid unnecessary idling.** It wastes fuel, costs you money, and pollutes the air. Turn off the engine if you anticipate a wait.

**Avoid jackrabbit starts and stops.** You can improve in-town gas mileage by up to five percent by driving “gently.”

**Use cruise control when appropriate.** It improves fuel economy when you're driving on the highway.

**Take care of the tires.** Keeping your tires properly inflated and aligned can increase gas mileage up to three percent.

**Keep your engine tuned.** Tuning your engine according to your owner's manual can increase gas mileage by an average of four percent.

**Change your oil regularly.** Clean oil reduces wear caused by friction between moving parts and removes harmful substances from the engine. You can improve your gas mileage by using the grade of motor oil in your owner's manual and changing it according to the schedule recommended by your car manufacturer. Motor oil that says “Energy Conserving” on the performance symbol of the American Petroleum Institute contains friction-reducing additives that can improve fuel economy.

**Check and replace air filters regularly.** Replacing clogged filters can increase gas mileage up to 10 percent. Lighten your load. Remove all non-essential items from your trunk and backseat. An extra 100 pounds can reduce fuel economy by up to two percent.

**Shop around.** Visit [sandiegogasprices.com](http://sandiegogasprices.com) for a list of the lowest and highest gas prices in San Diego as reported by consumers.

If you would like to purchase or lease a more fuel-efficient vehicle, please call San Diego County Credit Union toll-free at (877) 732-2848, visit [sdccu.com](http://sdccu.com) or visit one of 25 convenient branch locations.

## The County Line

### Your questions answered

**Q:** “With the rising cost of gasoline, and more County employees turning to ride sharing, has the County considered raising its carpool allowance from its current rate of \$25 per month?”

**A:** Yes, County management has given this issue a lot of consideration in view of the rising cost of fuel. However, this benefit - along with salaries and health insurance - is negotiated with the unions. The County will be entering negotiations with all the unions within six months.

Have a question, need some advice? Let County News find the answer for you. Write to [CountyNews@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:CountyNews@sdcounty.ca.gov).



Law enforcement officers dressed in decontamination gear arrived by helicopter at Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla as part of Golden Phoenix 08, a four-day training event last month led by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The County of San Diego, the City of San Diego and the Marine Aircraft Group-46 played leading roles in the event, a simulated response to a bio-terrorism attack.

**Liz Tamez (ARCC/Recorder)** was praised for her “outstanding support and assistance” and for making a couple’s wedding day “wonderful.”

*“Liz was helpful with every detail. She carefully explained the entire marriage process, helped us complete our forms, and showed great sensitivity over the whole event. She was patient and kind and she should be commended for her customer service.”*

**Joe Leon, Dionne Mochon and Shannon Welton (Child Support Services)** worked through a maze of red tape and State regulations to help a custodial parent recoup a substantial amount of child support.

*“I am so appreciative; I just don’t know how I can even put it in words. The amount collected was \$20,426. I truly believed the kids would have never seen a penny from their father without all Dionne and Joe’s hard work. It is very comforting to me as their mother to now be able to put that towards their college fund.”*

**The County Library in El Cajon** received thanks for all that they do for the community.

*“I love this place. I am creating some of my best memories for me and my daughter.”*

And a customer at the **San Marcos Branch** had this to say:

*“For me, coming to the library is the best thing ever. I love the energy I feel here. I truly believe that the staff works as a good team for the benefit of all whom enter these doors. I love it here.”*

**Steve Jonas (Public Works/Carto Services)** received kudos for his work on an elaborate and detailed set of maps for the Department of Parks and Recreation.

*“We at the Resource Management Division of Parks appreciate all the hard work on the MSCP (Multiple Species Conservation Program) survey tracking project. All of us are so pleased with the final product! You are the best!”*

**Sharon Untiedt, Chris Conlan and LeAnh Nguyen (Environmental Health)** were thanked for “DEH’s excellent presentation to the SDG&E annual Safety Stand Down!”

*“Chris Conlan and LeAnh Nguyen did an outstanding job in their presentation. Although (they) spoke at the end of the day, they held our employees’ rapt attention. It has been a pleasure working with you and your team.”*

**Leticia Bates (Housing & Community Development)** received a letter of thanks from a client who wrote that he “never expected a new lease on life at age 76, but here it is!”

*“I continue in awe of the superb accommodations you and your agency have provided me. If you’re ever in San Marcos, please come visit and see the good you’ve done.”*

**Leland Potter (ARCC/Realty)** was complimented by a customer for providing “the best service he had ever received.”

*“Leland was extremely knowledgeable (regarding the Mills Act) and went out of his way to explain the entire process.” The customer also stated “he wished he had employees as knowledgeable and dedicated as Leland.”*

**Debbie Valois and the rest of the staff at Animal Services** were appreciated for “making a trip to the pound pleasurable.”

*“I just wanted to say thank you for finding and keeping my dog safe over the weekend. The customer service rep that helped me was very courteous, pleasant and professional. Awesome customer service and a nice facility.”*

**Susana del Fierro and Gilda Montillano (Child Support Services)** were recognized by a custodial party for the quality of service they provided.

*“Susan was very friendly and upbeat. She was a pleasure to work with. I received very quick service. As soon as I was done with the paperwork, she was there to help me. Gilda was very pleasant to work with as well – my overall experience was great!”*

**Robert Bryant (Agriculture, Weights & Measures)** was applauded for being “an outstanding representative” for the department’s Standards Inspection team.

*“We were most impressed with Mr. Bryant. He was very fast, efficient and polite to the drivers during his inspections. Ultimately, he was able to perform more inspections than we had scheduled. We wish to extend our thanks to him for his great work.”*

**Ty Berlanga (Public Works/Carto Services)** was thanked by the Office of the Public Defender for “taking such good care of us!”

*“Ty was wonderful! He promptly took care of my rush request. The turnaround was incredible and the attorney was very pleased.”*

**Caesar Cuesta (ARCC/El Cajon Branch)** was commended for expediting a request for documents and for being “extremely gracious and thoughtful” of a client’s time.

*“He was not only true to his word and got me out of the office, documents in hand, by 8:50 a.m., he accomplished this task with the utmost diplomacy, courtesy, professionalism and efficiency that I have experienced in a long time.”*

**Brian Adkison, Tim Viers, Ventura Rivera, Mark Tusi, Chris Balan and Craig Underdown (Probation/Work Projects)** were all recognized by the County’s Airport Manager for their “hard work and dedication.”

*“Brian, Tim, Rivera and Mark have made many of the major projects at Airports Division a great success. I also would like to personally thank Chris and Craig for their flexibility in helping me schedule many projects and emergency responses throughout the year. Our working relationship should be the standard for all others to follow.”*

**Annie Mantz and Vanessa Harvey (Environmental Health)** were praised for their work in making the Ocean Beach Chili Cook-Off a “huge success.”

*“At least 10 people made a point to tell both me and Chairman Cox that the two inspectors (Annie and Vanessa) were extremely kind and informative. They even asked if they could have them back to inspect the Cook-Off every year.”*

**Susie Azhocar (ARCC/Assessment Services)** earned a letter of thanks from a customer who wrote “You have made a difference in my life.”

*“You were so patient, professional and thorough. I appreciate your assistance and generous attitude more than you’ll ever know.”*

**Denise Ducharme (Housing & Community Development)** received several letters of appreciation for "going out of her way to help others."

*"Denise is a very pleasant and patient person. She knows her job well and her communication skills are outstanding."*

*"I imagine your job to be very demanding and yet rewarding. It is very important and commendable work."*

*"...the County needs to employ more workers like Denise. She is kind, respectful, patient and pleasant."*

**Paula Gentsch and Karen Espinoza (ARCC/Marriage Room)** were complimented by a caller.

*"I have never received such nice service from a government office."*

**Dora Higuera and Alice Burnham (Child Support Services)** helped make a client feel "at ease."

*"Dora and Alice are very sweet. They really took the time to help. Thank you for making me feel like you really cared. Being here makes me feel tense. With you both, I almost felt at home. Thank you! Thank you!"*

**Gail Straub (Housing & Community Development)** was rated "Excellent" in all categories for her great customer service.

*"Gail is not only competent but also very pleasant. Everything was perfect"*

## News Makers

### County Planners Take Home Awards

County planners not only helped the County collect 39 National Association of Counties awards this summer. They also won accolades from the American Planning Association's San Diego chapter.

County teams won the only "Best Practices" awards given out this year for creating guidelines to judge environmental impact and cut pollution that flows to beaches.

Planners won first place for creating a sweeping, 3-inch-thick guide that shows developers how to determine how much environmental harm their projects might cause. The County also won an honorable mention for creating an illustrated "Low Impact Development Handbook." The guide shows how to build projects while cutting water pollution - for example, by building curbs and gutters that funnel rain to open ground rather than to storm drains that flow to beaches.

Honorees included Eric Gibson, Interim Director, Department of Planning and Land Use; Jason Giffen, Chief, Land Use; Jennifer Campos, Land Use/Environmental Planning Manager; Mario Covic, Land Use/Environmental Planner III; Donna Beddow, Land Use/Environmental Planning Manager; Bobbie Stephenson, Land Use/Environmental Planner III; Thomas Oberbauer, Chief, Multiple Species Conservation Program Watershed Division; and Cid Tesoro, Land Use and Environmental Group Program Manager.

### County Wins First Place in the 2008 Digital Counties Survey

San Diego County was ranked number one in the Digital Counties Survey by the Center for Digital Government. The Center for Digital Government recognizes counties using information technology in increasingly innovative ways and improving service to their citizens.

The Survey is an annual study by the Center and the National Association of Counties. Thousands of U.S. counties were invited to participate and the questions included more than 100 measurements and data points about online service delivery, infrastructure, architecture and governance models.

### DHR Director Named Human Resources Professional of the Year

Carlos Arauz, Director of the Department of Human Relations, was named one of ten 2008 HR Professionals of the Year by the *San Diego Business Journal* at an event to recognize human resources professionals in the area.

The award is based on a number of measures, including career success, community involvement and contributions to the County's growth and effectiveness. Some of the County programs highlighted were Work Safe/Stay Healthy, the Workforce Academy of Youth and the new Learning Management System.

The June event drew about 570 guests to the Sheraton San Diego Marina in San Diego.

### County's Food Safety Program Earns an "A" Grade

An independent review of the Department of Environmental Health's Food Safety Program concluded that it was "excellent." Last summer, DEH contracted with the National Environmental Health Association to conduct the review. NEHA's five-member expert panel reviewed information and conducted a three-day site visit. In its final report, NEHA noted, "It is important to note that virtually every area of concern that the panel found has already been identified and discussed by DEH management."

DEH encouraged recommendations for improvement from the panel, and eight recommendations were included in the report. The full report and a summary is available at: [www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/highlights/NEHA\\_SDCoFoodSafetyProgram.html](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/highlights/NEHA_SDCoFoodSafetyProgram.html).



## Retirements

Julianne C. Blandin (Sheriff)  
 Nancy J. Boyce (Facilities Management)  
 Betty L. Bradfield (Health & Human Services Agency)  
 Zandy I. Cabrera (Sheriff)  
 Joseph R. Castro (Child Support)  
 Wilhelmina A. DeGuzman (Health & Human Services Agency)  
 Nitta Elizaga (Community Services)  
 Dorothy J. Gillon (Health & Human Services Agency)  
 Donna M. Harney (Superior Court)  
 Catherine L. McAdams (Health & Human Services Agency)  
 Florence McCutcheon (Agriculture, Weights & Measures)  
 Vivencio A. Obedoza (Health & Human Services Agency)  
 Vicki J. Pendleton (Superior Court)  
 Janet S. Phillips (Sheriff)  
 Cynthia Quintanilla (Health & Human Services Agency)  
 Jean M. Shepard (Health & Human Services Agency)  
 Elizabeth G. Thorne (Public Defender)  
 Carlos Valenzuela (Health & Human Services Agency)  
 Carol J. Varela (Health & Human Services Agency)  
 Patricia A. Watson (Sheriff)

## Service Awards

### 35 Years

Ronald L. Cottingham (Sheriff)  
 Marva C. Mize (Probation)

### 30 Years

Doris L. Goodrich (Auditor & Controller)  
 Moses Monroy, Jr. (Facilities Management)  
 Rito M. Santos (Health & Human Services)  
 Roger A. Stockstill (Child Support)

### 25 Years

Jon A. Alegria (Sheriff)  
 Beatrice G. Clay (Probation)  
 Michael G. Croft (Sheriff)  
 Beverly J. Cullen (Sheriff)  
 John C. Gaines (Sheriff)  
 Cliston L. Hensley (Sheriff)  
 Michael L. Hernandez (Sheriff)  
 Jimmy A. Kale (Sheriff)  
 Mark Levardo (Probation)  
 Lenice Joy Lopez (Sheriff)  
 Rita McKnight (Sheriff)  
 Mark R. Miller (Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk)  
 Glenn D. Revell (Sheriff)  
 Edgar Takeda (District Attorney)  
 Hernando S. Torres (Sheriff)  
 H. A. Webber (Sheriff)  
 Peter K. Weichert (Sheriff)

### 20 Years

Neila D. Afan (Sheriff)  
 Mario T. Barrientos, Jr. (Sheriff)  
 Elvira P. Bernales (Health & Human Services)  
 Donna Bontemps-Dixon (Probation)  
 George W. Brewster, Jr. (County Counsel)  
 Miriam E. Brewster (County Counsel)  
 Leslie D. Cleavinger (Auditor & Controller)  
 Mary Ruth Clevenger (Probation)  
 Scotton Cotton (Sheriff)  
 Thay K. Dang (Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk)  
 Diane K. deShaw (Auditor & Controller)  
 John Escandon, Jr. (District Attorney)  
 Richard P. Geiler (District Attorney)  
 Richard M. Goggin (Sheriff)  
 Jorge Gutierrez (Public Defender)  
 Kathleen L. Happer (Housing & Community Development)  
 Fanny K. Lopez (Health & Human Services)  
 Michael P. McNamara (Facilities Management)  
 Maria I. Mendivil (Child Support)  
 Terri P. Peters (Public Defender)  
 Todd G. Richardson (Sheriff)  
 Sharon L. Salazar (Alternate Public Defender)  
 Gary C. Seiser (County Counsel)  
 Suzanne G. Talob (Child Support)  
 Charito T. Tilaro (Health & Human Services)  
 Desmond A. Townsend (District Attorney)  
 Cheryl A. Wahlin (Health & Human Services)  
 Dennis E. Wright (Parks & Recreation)  
 Lawrence J. Zickus (Public Works)



## In Memoriam

Catherine Atkinson (Sheriff, 2006)	5/08
Dudley Black (ARCC, 1969)	5/08
Son T. Chau (HHSA, 2002)	2/08
Hideo Chino (Superior Court, 2008)	4/08
Anna M. Clabaugh (HHSA, 1997)	5/08
Kenneth W. Cluff (ARCC, 1971)	6/08
Benjamin K. Fike (Transportation, 1976)	5/08
Mary E. Grupp (Education, 1976)	6/08
Jacqueline I. Hagenhoff (Sheriff, 1998)	6/08
Mary A. Hall (District Attorney, 1998)	5/08
Theodore R. Harwood (CAO, 1991)	5/08
Anna D. Martin (HHSA, 1983)	5/08
Richard H. Murphy (Public Works, 1986)	5/08
Kay V. Niles (ARCC, 1994)	5/08
Francis Odom (Auditor & Controller, 1977)	5/08
Helen M. Peace (HHSA, 2000)	6/08
Carol C. Rusnak (Municipal Court, 1991)	6/08
Bobby R. Sims (HHSA, 1984)	5/08
Mildred L. Thompson (Probation, 1971)	4/08
Albert Thornton (Edgemoor Hospital, 1976)	6/08
Dorothea Tompkins (Probation, 1999)	5/08
Lydia H. Velazquez (Superior Court, 2008)	5/08
Clarence D. Wagner (HHSA, 1978)	5/08
Richard W. Waldrip (AWM, 2001)	5/08

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of active County employees Bruce D. Campbell, Health & Human Services (5/08), Ricardo Gomez, Health & Human Services (4/08), Jae Y. Lee, Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk (3/08) and Skyler D. Perry, Environmental Health (3/08)."

## Daughter of County Employee Performs for CAC's Birthday



If you came for the cake on July 16, you also were treated to music. That young woman playing the violin on the second floor of the CAC was Kelly Coffey, the 16-year-old daughter of Maria Coffey of the Auditor & Controller's office.

The Clerk of the Board invited Kelly to play in honor of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CAC's dedication. On July 16, 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke to a crowd of 25,000 people gathered for the dedication of what was then called the Civic Center.

Kelly is a senior at Steele Canyon High School, and has been studying the violin since she was 9 years old. For the past five years, Kelly has been a member of The San Diego Youth Symphony, and her orchestra

performs at the Copley Symphony Hall and The California Center of The Arts in Escondido.

Kelly has been in numerous recitals in San Diego, Escondido and Julian, and performed solos for charitable functions. She's also played for County employees before; just last winter, she performed at the Auditor & Controller's holiday party.

Kelly's mother, Maria Coffey, said she was very proud.

"We are sometimes amazed at the enthusiasm Kelly can bring to others, through the art of music," Maria Coffey said. "Kelly's ability to give back to the community and her dedication to music and hard work has enabled her to do well in school."